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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,767

Applicant(s)

KRESS ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

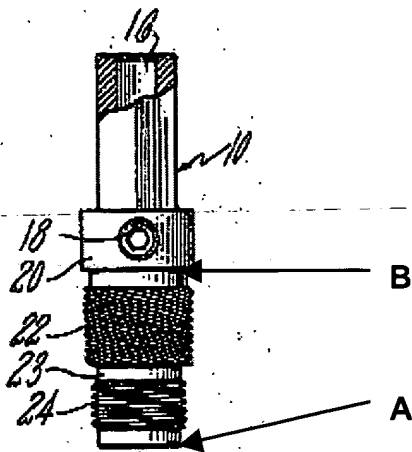
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bittern (USPN 3,837,759).

As to claim 6, Bittern discloses a device for connecting two tool parts **12,14** configured for receiving a threaded spindle, each of the tool parts having an associated threaded area, and wherein the device comprises:

a threaded spindle **10** having a projecting shoulder **A** (Figure reprinted below with annotations), the outside diameter of which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of one of the tool parts **12** to approximate the interior diameter such that the projecting shoulder serves to guide the threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts.



As to claim 7, Bittern discloses a device wherein a threaded spindle **10** has a projecting shoulder **A,B,23** at each end.

As to claim 8, Bittern discloses a device wherein the outside diameter of a projecting shoulder **A,B,23** at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of an associated threaded area of a corresponding tool part **12,14** to approximate the interior threads thereof to guide a threaded spindle **10** into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts.

As to claim 9, Bittern discloses a device wherein a threaded spindle **10** has two threaded sections **22,24**, each being threaded in a direction opposite the other and assigned to corresponding threaded areas of tool parts **12,14**.

As to claim 10, Bittern discloses a device wherein threaded sections **22,24** of a threaded spindle **10** have differing outside diameters for being correspondingly adapted to the differing interior diameters of two tool parts **12,14**.

As to claim 11, Bittern discloses a device wherein a threaded spindle **10** is configured with means **16** for being rotated when positioned within tool parts **12,14**.

As to claim 12, Bittern discloses a connection for connecting two tool pieces, the connection having:

a first tool piece **14** having a threaded area for receiving a first threaded section **24** of a threaded spindle;

a second tool piece **12** having a threaded area for receiving a second threaded section **22** of a threaded spindle;

a threaded spindle **10** having a first threaded sections **24** for engaging the threaded area of the first tool piece and a second threaded section **22** for engaging the threaded area of the second tool piece, and wherein the threaded spindle has a shoulder **A** extending beyond one of the threaded sections, the shoulder having an outer diameter slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the threaded area of the first tool piece for approximating the interior diameter of the threaded area to there guide the threaded section into the threaded area and provide axial and angular alignment of the first and second tool pieces.

As to claim 13, Bittern discloses a connection wherein a second tool piece **12** partially nests within a first tool piece **14**.

As to claim 14, Bittern discloses a connection wherein a threaded spindle **10** has a opposing ends and has a projecting shoulder **A,B,23** at each end.

As to claim 15, Bittern discloses a connection wherein the outside diameter of each projecting shoulder **A,B,23** at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of an associated threaded area of a corresponding tool piece **12,14** to approximate the

interior threads to guide a threaded spindle **10** into place and to provide axial and angular alignment between first and second tool pieces **12,14**.

As to claim 16, Bittern discloses a connection wherein threaded sections **22,24** of a threaded spindle **10** have opposing orientations and are assigned to corresponding threaded areas of tool pieces **12,14**.

As to claim 17, Bittern discloses a connection wherein threaded sections **22,24** of a threaded spindle **10** have differing outside diameters and threaded areas of tool pieces **12,14** have correspondingly adapted interior diameters.

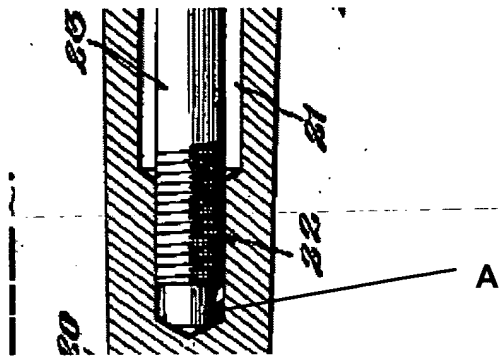
As to claim 18, Bittern discloses a connection wherein a threaded spindle **10** is configured with means **16** for rotating the threaded spindle when positioned within first and second tool pieces **12,14**.

3. Claims 6, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Redinger (USPN 1,615,233).

As to claim 6, Redinger discloses a device for connecting two tool parts **20,31** configured for receiving a threaded spindle, each of the tool parts having an associated threaded area, and wherein the device comprises:

a threaded spindle **23** having a projecting shoulder **A** (Figure 1 reprinted below with annotations), the outside diameter of which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of one of the tool parts **20** to approximate the interior diameter such that the projecting shoulder serves to guide the threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts (Figure 1).

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As to claim 12, Redinger discloses a connection for connecting two tool pieces, the connection having:

a first tool piece **20** having a threaded area for receiving a first threaded section **22** of a threaded spindle;

a second tool piece **31** having a threaded area for receiving a second threaded section **24** of a threaded spindle;

a threaded spindle **23** having a first threaded sections **22** for engaging the threaded area of the first tool piece and a second threaded section **24** for engaging the threaded area of the second tool piece, and wherein the threaded spindle has a shoulder **A** extending beyond one of the threaded sections, the shoulder having an outer diameter slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the threaded area of the first tool piece for approximating the interior diameter of the threaded area to there guide the threaded section into the threaded area and provide axial and angular alignment of the first and second tool pieces (Figure 1).

As to claim 13, Redinger discloses a connection wherein a second tool piece **31** partially nests within a first tool piece **20** (Figure 1).

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4. Claims 6-8, 12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hart (USPN 2,005,498).

As to claim 6, Hart discloses a device for connecting two tool parts **1,2** configured for receiving a threaded spindle, each of the tool parts having an associated threaded area, and wherein the device comprises:

a threaded spindle **3** having a projecting shoulder **7**, the outside diameter of which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of one of the tool parts **1** to approximate the interior diameter such that the projecting shoulder serves to guide the threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts (Figures 1, 3, 4 and 6).

As to claim 7, Hart discloses a device wherein a threaded spindle **3** has a projecting shoulder **7,9** at each end (Figure 4).

As to claim 8, Hart discloses a device wherein the outside diameter of a projecting shoulder **7,9** at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of an associated threaded area of a corresponding tool part **1,2** to approximate the interior threads thereof to guide a threaded spindle **3** into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts (Figure 1).

As to claim 12, Hart discloses a connection for connecting two tool pieces, the connection having:

a first tool piece **1** having a threaded area for receiving a first threaded section of a threaded spindle;

a second tool piece **2** having a threaded area for receiving a second threaded section of a threaded spindle;

a threaded spindle **3** having a first threaded sections (defined by the upper portion of spindle **3**) for engaging the threaded area of the first tool piece and a second threaded section (defined by the lower portion of spindle **3**) for engaging the threaded area of the second tool piece, and wherein the threaded spindle has a shoulder **7** extending beyond one of the threaded sections, the shoulder having an outer diameter slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the threaded area of the first tool piece for approximating the interior diameter of the threaded area to there guide the threaded section into the threaded area and provide axial and angular alignment of the first and second tool pieces (Figures 1, 3, 4 and 6).

As to claim 14, Hart discloses a connection wherein a threaded spindle **3** has a opposing ends and has a projecting shoulder **7,9** at each end (Figure 4).

As to claim 15, Hart discloses a connection wherein the outside diameter of each projecting shoulder **7,9** at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of an associated threaded area of a corresponding tool piece **1,2** to approximate the interior threads to guide a threaded spindle **3** into place and to provide axial and angular alignment between first and second tool pieces **1,2** (Figure 1).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (703)308-8591. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703)308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9326.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1114.

MPF


Lynne H. Browne
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 3679